

Message Text

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AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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SUMMARY: RSA NEWS REPORTS CONCENTRATED ON UPCOMING MOTION
IN UN AND SAG SOFTENING ATTITUDE TO DEALING WITH SWAPO.
ON RHODESIA, NEW DEVELOPMENT WAS FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS
REQUESTING UK PLAY MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN INTERIM GOVT.
JIMMY CARTER REJECTION OF TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE SEEN TO PUT
PRESSURE ON STATE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NAMIBIA A NUMBER OF PAPERS REPORTED HEIGHTENED DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITY ON EVE OF UNSC DEBATE. REPORTS NOTED AMBASSADOR BOTHA
PRETORIA MEETING WITH PM VORSTER, FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER
AND WHITE TURNHALLE DELEGATES LED BY CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN
MUDGE. TALKS REPORTED LASTING UNTIL WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY.

2. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPERS " BEELD" AND " DIE TRANSVALER"
OCT 18 REPORTED WEEKEND SPEECH OF TURNHALLE WHITE DELEGATE
EBEN VAN ZIJL AT GROOTFONTEIN, QUOTING HIM TO AFFECT
THAT TURNHALLE CONFERENCE PREPARED TO CONSIDER " ANY
REASONABLE PROPOSAL WHICH COULD RESOLVE THE SWAPO DILEMMA...
THE ONUS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS RESTS FIRMLY WITH SWAPO, BUT
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ANY NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDITIONAL UPON ACCEPTANCE OF
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND CESSATION OF THE TERROR CAMPAIGN".

3. JOHANNESBURG'S LIBERAL " RAND DAILY MAIL" OCT 18 CARRIED ARTICLE ON SWA BY POLITICAL COMMENTATOR J. SERFONTEIN, PREDICTING TURNHALLE CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO MEET SWAPO AT INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. ARTICLE SAYS TODAY " PROBABLY THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR A SOLUTION TO THE 31 YEAR OLD INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE BECAUSE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MUST DECIDE TODAY WHETHER TO IMPOSE MANDATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA..." SERFONTEIN SAYS WESTERN POWERS " ARE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE A VETO, BUT RELUCTANTLY". SIGNIFICANT POINT, ACCORDING TO SERFONTEIN, IS " THE U.S. HAS AT NO STAGE PUT ANY SERIOUS PRESSURE ON SWAPO TO MODIFY ITS PRECONDITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THUS SAVE MR. VORSTER CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT".

4. AN SECOND RDM ARTICLE RICHARD WALKER REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT ONLY A PRETORIA STATEMENT DECLARING READINESS TO ATTEND A UN CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WITH SWAPO IS LIKELY TO DISSUADE THE AFRICAN RESOLVE TO GO ALL OUT FOR A GLOBAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST S.A. WALKER SAYS US VETO COULD HURT PRESIDENT FORD'S ELECTION CHANCES AND SAYS AMERICANS HAVE TRIED TO AVERT SHOWDOWN BY INDICATING THAT S.A. IS IN FACT READY TO MEET WITH SWAPO.

5. DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT FLEUR DE VILLIERS REPORTED IN MASS-CIRCULATION " SUNDAY TIMES" OCT 17 THAT "CRITICAL DECISIONS" ON SWA WERE BEING TAKEN IN PRETORIA DURING WEEKEND AS WHITE TURNHALLE DELEGATES MET VORSTER. " THE TALKS... COULD DECIDE WHETHER RSA IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SWAPO. THIS WOULD REPRESENT CAPITULATION TO USA AND AFRICAN DEMANDS AND A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM RSA'S LONG-HELD POSITION THAT THE FUTURE OF SWA WILL BE DECIDED ONLY BY ITS INHABITANTS."

6. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT, DURBAN ENGLISH PAPER "NATAL MECURY" OCT 18 SAID " LIKE IT OR NOT, IT IS A FACT OF LIFE SWAPO IS A POLITICAL FORCE IN THE TERRITORY AND WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY
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CONSTITUTIONAL PLAN OR ELECTION TO DECIDE A FUTURE GOVERNMENT. WHAT MUST BE RESISTED ARE OAU AND UNO CLAIMS THAT SWAPO IS THE ONLY AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE AND THEIR DETERMINED EFFORTS TO SIDELINE THE FURNHALLE CONFERENCE. IT IS IMPERATIVE THE TURNHALLE TALKS BE KEPT ON THE RAILS, FOR IF THEY BREAK DOWN SO WILL THE MAIN CHANCE TO ESTABLISH A REAL DEMOCRACY IN SWA AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A SWA-DOMINATED REGIME INSTALLED WITH RUSSIAN CONNIVANCE UNDER A UNO CLOAK OF RESPECTABILITY."

7. ON RHODESIA, NUMBER OF PAPERS REPORTED STATEMENT BY FRONTLINE PRESIDENT AFTER WEEKEND LUSAKA MEETING THAT THE UK " AS THE COLONIAL POWER" SHOULD ASSUME " GREATER RESPONSIBILITY" FOR RHODESIA IN GENEVA TALKS AND SHOULD CONTEMPLATE " A MORE ACTIVE ROLE" IN THE PERIOD OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT BEFORE MAJORITY RULE.

8. EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN BY DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT FLEUR DE VILLIERS IN " SUNDAY TIMES" OCT 17 SAID " THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN POT HAS LONG CONTAINED ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR DISASTER" BLACK POVERTY AMID ISLANDS OF WHITE WEALTH; BLACK REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS AND WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENTS; EXPLODING POPULATIONS AND ECONOMIC FAILURE. FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES, IT HAS BUBBLED AWAY AT THE BACK OF THE STOVE, THE SUBJECT OF SPORADIC INTERNATIONAL CONCERN PERSISTENT LOW-LEVEL COMMUNIST ATTENTION. NOW THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HAS REMOVED THE LID, BUT HE HAS NOT TAKEN THE POT OFF THE STOVE. RUSSIAN INTEREST HAS TURNED UP THE HEAT. BLACK ASPIRATIONS HAVE REACHED BOILING POINT AND PERSONAL AMBITION AND RIVAL IDEOLOGIES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE BREW. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT IT WILL NOT BOIL OVER? AS DR. KISSINGER'S PEACE INITIATIVE FACES ITS FIRST MAJOR TEST, NEXT WEEK'S GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, THE CHANCES MUST BE RATED AS SLIGHT."

9. RDM SENIOR ASST EDITOR BENJAMIN POGRUND WHO IS PRESENTLY SPENDING SIX MONTHS AT " BOSTON GLOBE" FILED REPORT IN RDM OCT 18.
POGRUND WRITES THAT JIMMY CARTER REJECTS TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE AS A "SHAM"... MERELY ONE MORE STEP ON THE WAY TOWARD IMPLEMENTING SA'S IMMORAL AND UNWORKABLE
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POLICY OF APARTHEID." ARTICLE SAYS LACK OF STATE DEPT DECISION ON TRANSKEI " MIGHT BE ONE OF THE RESULTS OF FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS" BETWEEN VORSTER AND KISSINGER, AND STATE THAT CARTER'S STRONG STAND WILL BE DECISIVE IN FORMULATING USG ATTITUDE, FOR WHILE US ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSKEI " WAS REMOVE", NOW SUCH RECOGNITION IS IMPOSSIBLE. ARTICLE ENDS BY QUOTING STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THAT ACCEPTANCE OR NON-ACCEPTANCE IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF EVENTS IN RSA AND USG EVALUATION WILL TAKE BROADER IMPLICATIONS INTO ACCOUNT.
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